



## OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE

### **For Immediate Release**

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### **House Republicans Release 2017 Legislative Agenda**

*Priorities Include Delivering Affordable Government, Increasing Transparency & Investing In Oregon Students & Workers*

**Salem, Ore.** - House Republicans marked the start of the 2017 Legislative session today with an agenda focused on delivering efficient, affordable government to Oregon taxpayers; holding state government to higher standards of transparency and accountability; expanding opportunities and economic growth; investing in Oregon students and workers; strengthening the integrity of our elections; prioritizing rural issues; and, keeping our promise to Oregon veterans. In releasing their 2017 agenda, House Republicans also pledged to work across party lines to develop a balanced budget that protects funding for core state services while also acknowledging the desperate need for spending reform.

“House Republicans are proud to release an agenda today that presents a number of opportunities for our state to take positive steps forward,” said House Republican Leader Mike McLane. “From investing in a more efficient, affordable and transparent system of government to prioritizing investments in Oregon students and workers, we believe our agenda has the potential to make an immediate positive impact in the lives of Oregonians.”

#### **Deliver Efficient, Affordable Government To Oregon Taxpayers**

- Rebuild state agency budgets from the ground up by requiring agencies to provide a thorough accounting of how they are spending taxpayer dollars and find areas within budgets to increase efficiencies and eliminate waste.
- Take steps toward stabilizing Oregon’s pension crisis by modernizing our approach to funding public employee retirement accounts.
- Require tax credits to be considered individually, preventing the politically-motivated shell game of so called “revenue neutral” tax bills.

#### **Hold State Government To Higher Standards Of Transparency & Accountability**

- Establish an impeachment process so that when rare and extreme circumstances arise, appropriate action may be taken. (*Oregon is the only state in the nation without a mechanism for executive branch impeachment*)
- Prevent well-connected political insiders from gaining an unfair advantage in our political process by requiring senior level government staffers to abide by cooling-off period before accepting a job lobbying Oregon state government.
- Take concrete steps toward improving Oregon’s public records laws:
  - Require regular reauthorizations of each public records exemptions.
  - Set a consistent, reasonable standard for fees associated with the production of public records.

#### **Prioritize Economic Growth**

- Foster a pro-growth economic environment that provides community employers with the flexibility and stability they need to grow and expand.

- Promote policies that allow Oregon businesses to remain competitive in the regional and global economy.
- Deliver a robust road and infrastructure investment package that addresses seismic deficiencies, reduces carbon emissions by reducing congestion, and allows Oregonians to travel safely and efficiently.

#### **Invest In Our Students & Workforce**

- Prioritize funding for our K-12 schools to ensure that our students and teachers have the resources they need to achieve success.
- Allow parents to enroll their children at schools tailored to their unique needs by eliminating the sunset on Oregon's open enrollment law.
- Invest in career and technical education programs that provide Oregonians with the skills they need to be successful in the workforce.
- Take immediate action to address Oregon's housing crisis by expediting the process of constructing new housing units and addressing the underlying factors that have led to a shortage of available units.

#### **Make Rural Oregon A Priority In Salem**

- Advocate for the perspectives of rural small businesses and Oregon's natural resource-reliant industries in all policy discussions.
- Protect rural communities from one-size-fits-all government mandates that fail to take into account the unique challenges they face.
- Promote reasonable policies that provide our agriculture and natural resource industries the freedom they need to produce goods, while also maintaining a healthy respect for our environment.

#### **Strengthen The Integrity Of Oregon Elections**

- Support efforts to establish an independent redistricting process and deliver a more equitable system of elections to Oregonians.
- Put a stop to the practice of politicians using their incumbency to provide an advantage to hand-picked successors.

#### **Keep Our Promise To Oregon Veterans**

- Fully fund Ballot Measure 96, keeping our promise to Oregon veterans and honoring the will of Oregon voters who overwhelmingly supported the measure.